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Summary

Main Features

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This is the first issue of SA Stats. If you have any comments about this new product please contact Glenn Hamlyn on ph: (08) 8237 7422 or alternatively e-mail glenn.hamlyn@abs.gov.au.

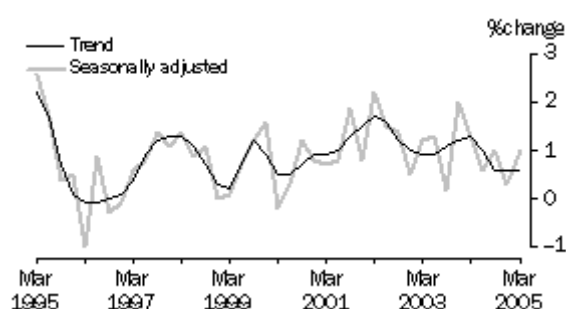
This publication provides an overview of the South Australian economy. The overview will be updated on a quarterly basis (in September, December, March and June) and in the intervening months the publication will include feature articles that provide a South Australian focus on economic, social and environmental issues.

The data in this overview are presented in trend terms, unless otherwise stated. As this is an overview of a number of different economic statistics, Explanatory Notes are not included in SA Stats in the form found in other ABS publications. Readers are directed to the Explanatory Notes contained in related ABS publications.

CONSUMPTION

Household final consumption expenditure increased by 0.6% to \$9,083m in the March quarter 2005 (in trend chain volume terms). The components that recorded the largest increases over the quarter were recreation and culture (up by \$19m or 1.7%) and rent and other dwelling services (up by \$11m or 0.8%), while hotels, cafes and restaurants experienced the largest fall (down by \$12m or 1.7%). Over the year to March 2005, total household final consumption expenditure rose by 2.9%.

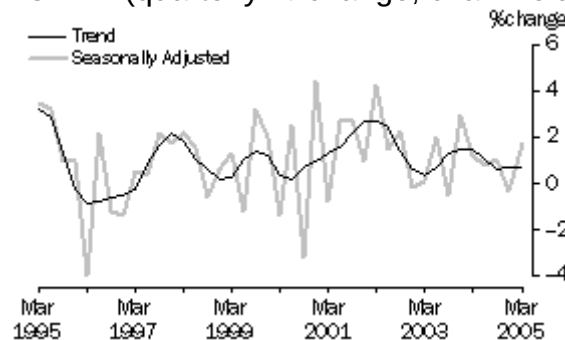
HOUSEHOLD FINAL CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE (quarterly % change, chain volume measure)



Source: **Australian National Accounts (cat. no. 5206.0)**, time series spreadsheets

In the March quarter 2005, **retail turnover** rose by 0.7% to \$3,671.6m (in trend chain volume terms). Over the year to March 2005, retail turnover increased by 3.0% (\$107.9m).

RETAIL TURNOVER (quarterly % change, chain volume measure)



Source: **Retail Trade, Australia (cat. no. 8501.0)**, time series spreadsheets

Of the seven retail industries, food retailing and household good retailing recorded the largest increases over the three months to March 2005 (up by 1.4% and 0.8% respectively), while clothing and soft good retailing recorded the largest decline (4.2%).

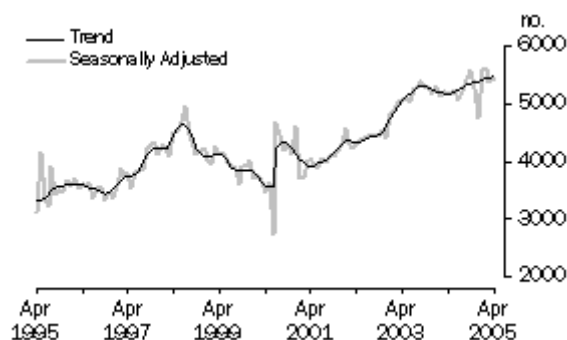
RETAIL TURNOVER BY INDUSTRY GROUP (3-monthly % change, trend, March 2005)



Source: **Retail Trade, Australia (cat. no. 8501.0)**,

In April 2005, the trend estimate for **sales of new motor vehicles** rose by 0.4% to 5,492 vehicles. Over the 12 months to April 2005, total sales increased by 6.1% (317 vehicles), with sales of passenger vehicles also up by 6.1% (202 vehicles), sports utility vehicle sales up by 11.1% (95 vehicles) and other vehicle sales up by 2.0% (20 vehicles).

NEW MOTOR VEHICLE SALES (number per month)



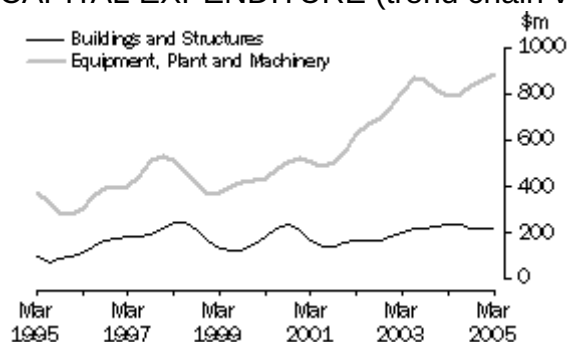
Note: There is a trend break between June 2000 & July 2000 resulting from the introduction of The New Tax System.

Source: **Sales of New Motor Vehicles, Australia (cat. no. 9314.0.55.001)**, time series spreadsheets

INVESTMENT

In the March quarter 2005, **private new capital expenditure** increased by 2.8% to \$1,112m (in trend chain volume terms). Expenditure on equipment, plant and machinery grew by 2.9% to \$891m while expenditure on buildings and structures rose 2.8% to \$222m.

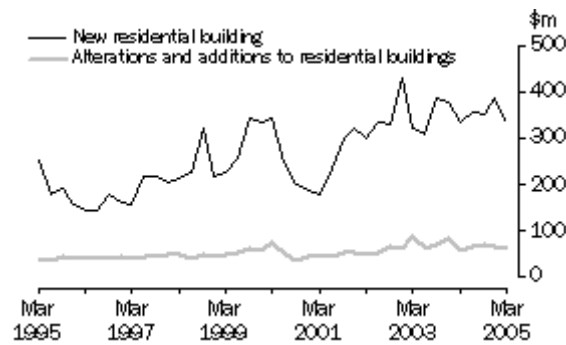
PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE (trend chain volume measure)



Source: **Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia (cat. no. 5625.0)**, time series spreadsheets

The total value of building approvals rose by 14.2% to \$747.6m in the March quarter 2005 (chain volume measure). This rise was due to the large increase in the value of approvals for non-residential building (up by \$145.1m to \$346.0m). The value of residential building approvals fell by \$52.2m to \$401.6m, with the value of new housing approvals down \$37.9m (13.0%), approvals for new other residential building down \$13.5m (13.7%) and approvals for alterations and additions down \$0.8m (1.2%). Over the year to March 2005, the value of approvals for residential building rose by 2.5% compared with a 101.4% increase in the value of non-residential building approvals.

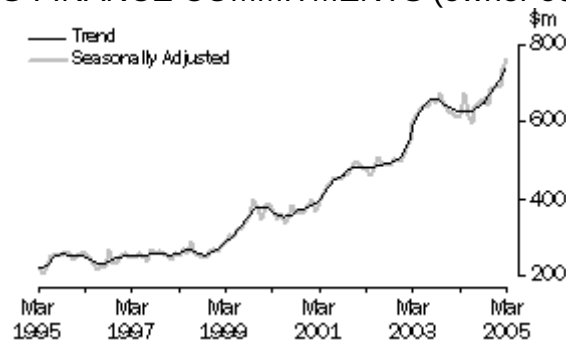
VALUE OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDING APPROVALS (chain volume measure)



Source: **Building Approvals, Australia (cat. no. 8731.0)**, time series spreadsheets

In March 2005, **housing finance commitments** (for owner occupation) rose by 2.3% (\$16.8m) to \$746.2m. Over the 12 months to March 2005, these commitments have increased by 19.3% (\$120.6m).

HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS (owner occupation)



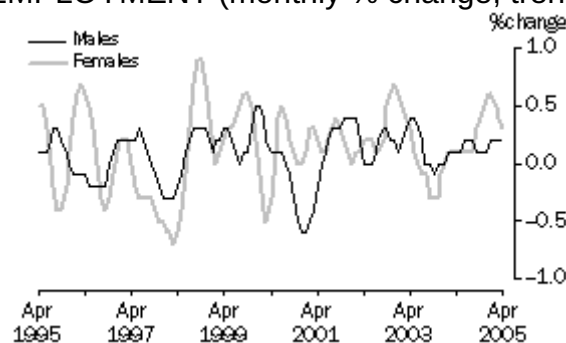
Note: Excludes alterations & additions. Includes refinancing.

Source: **Housing Finance, Australia (cat. no. 5609.0)**, time series spreadsheets

LABOUR MARKET

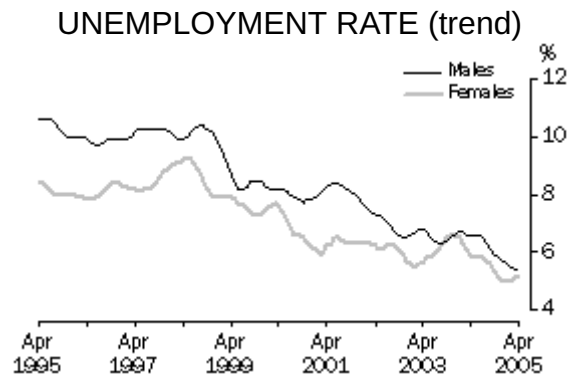
In April 2005, the total number of **employed persons** increased by 1,800 to 738,200 in trend terms. Female employment rose by 900 to 333,100 and male employment increased by 800 to 405,100. Full-time employment rose by 1,600, with male full-time employment accounting for 78.8% of the increase.

EMPLOYMENT (monthly % change, trend)



Source: **Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0.55.001)**, time series spreadsheets

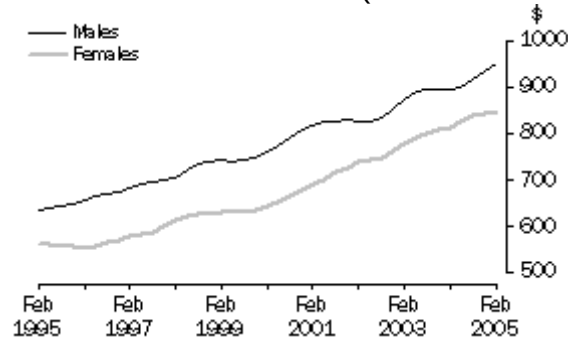
The trend **unemployment rate** fell by 0.1 percentage points to 5.2% in April 2005. The female unemployment rate remained steady at 5.1% while the male unemployment rate decreased by 0.1 percentage points to 5.3%. The number of unemployed persons fell by 100 to 40,800.



Source: **Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0.55.001)**, time series spreadsheets

Trend **average weekly earnings** (full-time adult ordinary) increased by 1.4% to \$919.50 per week in the February quarter 2005. Female earnings rose by 0.4% to \$849.20 while male earnings increased by 1.9% to \$954.90.

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS (full-time adult ordinary)

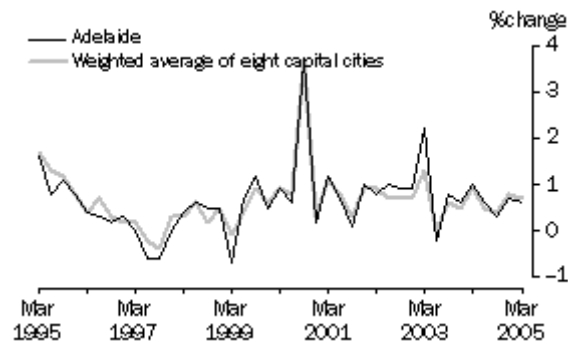


Source: **Average Weekly Earnings, Australia (cat. no. 6302.0)**, time series spreadsheets

CONSUMER PRICES

The all groups **consumer price index** (CPI) for Adelaide rose by 0.6% in the March quarter 2005. It has increased by 2.2% since the March quarter 2004.

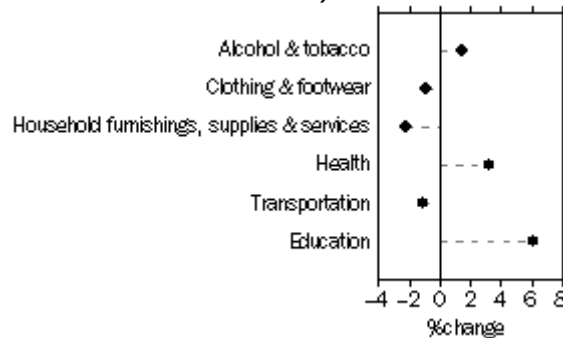
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (all groups, quarterly % change)



Source: **Consumer Price Index, Australia (cat. no. 6401.0)**, time series spreadsheets

In the March quarter 2005, the major contributors to change in the CPI were the education, health, and alcohol and tobacco groups (up by 6.1%, 3.2% and 1.5% respectively) and the household furnishings, supplies and services, transportation, and clothing and footwear groups (down by 2.2%, 1.1% and 0.9%).

MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO CHANGE IN THE CPI (quarterly % change, March quarter 2005)

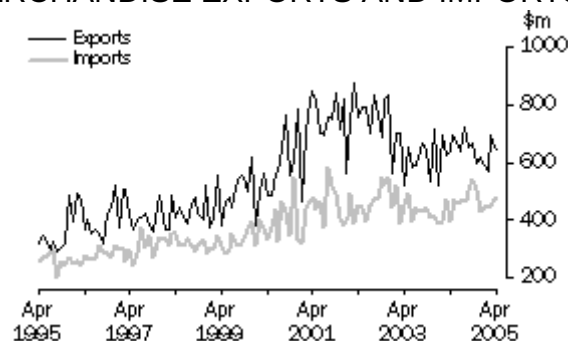


Source: **Consumer Price Index, Australia (cat. no. 6401.0)**

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

In the month of April 2005, **the value of merchandise exports** decreased by 7.8% to \$641m (in original terms) while **the value of merchandise imports** rose by 6.2% to \$479m. Over the last 12 months, the value of exports fell by 0.3% and the value of imports increased by 20.7%.

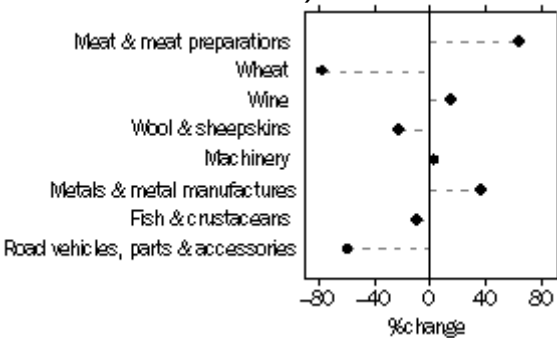
VALUE OF MERCHANDISE EXPORTS AND IMPORTS (original data)



Source: **International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia (cat. no. 5368.0)**, time series spreadsheets

Over the 12 months to April 2005, the main contributors to change in the value of exports were meat and meat preparations (up by 63.8% to \$42.6m), metals and metals manufactures (up by 36.3% to \$111.6m), wheat (down by 76.7% to \$23.4m) and road vehicles, parts and accessories (down by 59.7% to \$39.7m).

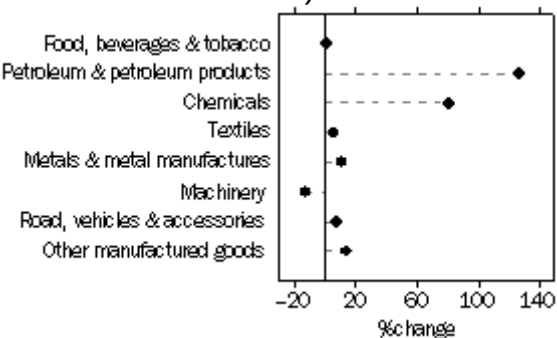
VALUE OF SELECTED MERCHANDISE EXPORTS (annual % change, April 2005, original data)



Source: **International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia (cat. no. 5368.0)**, unpublished data

The main contributors to change in the value of imports in the 12 months to April 2005 were petroleum and petroleum products (up by 126.8% to \$72.8m), chemicals (up by 81.0% to \$42.6m) and machinery (down by 12.8% to \$99.3m).

VALUE OF SELECTED MERCHANDISE IMPORTS, (annual % change, April 2005, original data)



Source: **International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia (cat. no. 5368.0)**, unpublished data

About this Release

ABOUT THIS RELEASE

An economic summary for South Australia is provided each quarter in the form of graphs and explanatory text. In the second and third months of each quarter one or more articles examine an area of specific interest to South Australia.

Replaces: 1307.4

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